

provisions in this bill. An increasing number of organic farmers sell to wholesalers as well as directly to consumers. This bill exempts farmers who sell their products directly to consumers from the annual fee, but not farmers who sell the majority of their products to wholesalers. By incentivizing organic producers to sell fewer than 51 percent of their products to wholesalers, we could be deterring organic farmers from branching out to new markets. This is not the time to be hindering the growth of organic farming by discouraging organic farmers from diversifying the markets where their products are sold.

This legislation also must take into account the relationship between the co-management of conservation and food safety. The use of animals for pest control is a crucial component of organic farming, and this bill would restrict farmers from maintaining their organic practices. Instead of regulating all animals, this legislation could investigate other alternatives, including focusing on animals that are at a high risk for passing on diseases, to take into account the needs of organic farmers. More should be done to encourage biodiversity and natural farming techniques that farmers have used to reduce their dependence on pesticides and herbicides.

Madam Speaker, food safety legislation must protect the health of consumers and respect the needs of family farms and sustainable producers. It is my hope that we can strengthen the provisions in H.R. 2749 affecting the unique needs of small and organic farmers when this bill is taken up in conference. I am encouraged by the work done to enhance the safety of our Nation's food supply, and look forward to continuing to improve this important legislation and our food delivery system.

**A PROCLAMATION HONORING
KASEY GERBER FOR WINNING
THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE
SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker,

Whereas, Kasey Gerber showed hard work and dedication to the sport of softball; and

Whereas, Kasey Gerber was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Kasey Gerber always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the field; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Kasey Gerber on winning the Girls' Division IV State Softball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship she has demonstrated during the 2008–2009 softball season.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JUDGE ALDEN EDWARD DANNER UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of a distinguished member of my community, the Honorable Alden Edward Danner, upon his retirement after more than 20 years of public service to the State of California and the people of Santa Clara County.

Throughout his career, Judge Danner has demonstrated public service values, adhering to the highest ethical standards, respecting the dignity and integrity of all people, and sought solutions while fostering open communication and mutual support for court clients, staff, members of the judicial branch, and justice system partners.

Judge Danner applied his expertise in the law and his commitment to the administration of justice and the independent, consistent, and impartial interpretation of the law through his participation as a member of the Judicial Council of California's Task Force on Probate and Mental Health, 1997–1998; Court Technology Advisory Committee, 1999–2005; Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee, 2003–2004, and its Executive Committee, 2005–2006; and the Task Force on Judicial Campaign Finance, 2009; and as faculty for the Center for Judicial Education and Research's Probate and Mental Health Institute, 1997–1998; and Computer Training for Judges, 1993–1998.

The California judicial branch is fortunate to have benefited from Judge Danner's distinguished service as a jurist since his appointment to the Superior Court by Governor George Deukmejian in 1989 and his subsequent election by citizens of Santa Clara County.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Danner served our justice system with distinction, contributing to the resolution of legal issues for the people of Santa Clara County as an associate and partner in private law practice from 1966–1989. Judge Danner earned a Juris Doctorate from Stanford Law School in 1965, after service in the U.S. Army from 1958–1962.

It is with great pleasure that I join in celebrating Judge Danner's life and many accomplishments. I thank him for his contributions to our region in California and to our Nation. On behalf of our community, I congratulate Judge Danner and wish him and his family well in his retirement and his future plans.

**TRIBUTE TO THE FAIRFIELD
INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY**

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a vital program to the Greater Fairfield area, the Fairfield Interfaith Food Pantry at the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Church. The Food Pantry has assisted innumerable members of this community, and I would like to take the opportunity of their celebration of sixteen years of service to congratulate them on their lasting impact.

At the celebration on October 3, 2009, the Fairfield Community will recognize and honor Nancy Marcoux, the Interfaith Food Pantry Director, and Richard "Dick" Tompkins, the Co-Director since the beginning. The work that Nancy and Richard have done is truly amazing. The volunteer staff and the clients appreciate and respect both of these hardworking individuals. They are known to everyone in the Greater Fairfield area, and when someone is in need of assistance, they do not hesitate to call Nancy or Dick and know that their doors will open.

The Fairfield Interfaith Food Pantry works with the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources which oversees The Emergency Food Assistance Program, a federal initiative that provides commodities to about 260 voluntary feeding programs in Maine. The Fairfield Interfaith Food Pantry also receives assistance from the Kennebec County Sheriff's Department, says community services officer John Matthews. Under the Sheriff's Department program, incarcerated inmates harvest potatoes and mixed vegetables on 8 acres of fields in Augusta and Benton. The program was started by Sheriff Randy Liberty and yields fresh produce for the Fairfield Interfaith Food Pantry and other food banks in Maine.

Today is an opportunity to thank Nancy Marcoux and Dick Tompkins for their dedication to this program. In Nancy's words, "you got to do what you got to do to exist."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, September 22, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "Aye" on rollcall vote No. 720, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 441; "Aye" on rollcall vote No. 721, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 2971; "No" on rollcall vote No. 722, on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3548.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I regret that I missed rollcall vote Nos. 710–719 and rollcall vote 730. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 713–716, 718, and 719. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 710–712, 717, and 730.